(b) whether any assessment has been made in this regard:

(c) if so. the details thereof including the estimated expenditure to be incurred thereon: and

(d) the steps taken and proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) to (d). Assessment for developing the present National Highway No. 8 between Ahmedabad and Bombay into four lane road has been made and development is being taken up in selected stretches. The details thereof are as under :

(i) 106 km. are alreay four laned.

(ii) Four laning of 157 Km. costing Rs. 224.70 crores stands sanctioned under 30 road/ bridge projects and is at various stages of progress.

(iii) Four laning of 16 Km. at an estimated cost of Rs. 19.35 crores is proposed to be taken up during Annual Plan 1996-97.

*[Translation]*

**Visit of PM of Sri Lanka**

2949. SHRI RAMASHRAYA PRASAD SINGH :
SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Prime Minister of Sri Lanka had visited India recently:

(b) if so. the details of talks held by her with Indian leaders: and

(c) the extent to which the friendly relationship of India-Sri Lanka is likely to be effected?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) The Prime Minister of Sri Lanka visited India in the first week of July. The visit was a purely personal visit.

(b) No official talks were held during her visit.

(c) Does not arise.

**Production of Defence Spare Parts**

2950. SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Director General. Quality Assurances has started production of the defence spare parts in the country itself with the assistance of domestic industries.

(b) if so, the details thereof:

(c) the value of such spare parts supplied by the domestic industries: and

(d) the value of foreign exchange saved as a result of the production of these spare parts in the country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) and (b). Yes. Sir. About 6000 industrial units are in the compendium of DGQA.

(c) and (d). From 1965 upto 31 March 1996. stores valued at about Rs. 2000 crore have been supplied through the efforts of DGQA. This is the value of ab-initio developmental orders. The follow up orders on this by the three services would be many times more. Over 55000 items have thus been indigenised. It is not possible to accurately indicate the foreign exchange saved except to say that it would be much more than Rs. 2000 crore which was incurred in developing the items indigenously.

*[English]*

**Inland Water Navigation in Kerala**

2951. SHRI KODIKUNNIL SURESH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken so far by the Government for development of Inland Water Navigation in Kerala;

(b) whether the Government have received any representation from Kerala for the Inland Water Navigation; and

(c) if so. the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN) : (a) As a result of various survey and studies conducted by the Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI), on the entire length of the West Coast Canal between Kovalam and Kasergode during the period from 1987 to 1992. the stretch of the West Coast Canal from Kollam to Kottapuram (168 Kms), the Champakara Canal (14 Kms) and the Udyogmandal Canal (23 Kms) have been declared as a National Waterway-III with effect from 1st February, 1993. The IWAI is implementing various developmental works like dredging. channel marking etc. in this National Waterway for improving and maintaining its navigability. Navigational locks in the Waterway are being maintained in operational condition. During the period from 1993-94 to 1995-96, a total quantity of 3.44 lakhs cu. meters were dredged. During the year 1995-96, an expenditure of Rs. 97.00 lakhs was incurred in the development of this National Waterway in Kerala against an approved outlay of Rs. 100.00 lakhs.

(b) and (c). Yes. Sir. The following points have been sumitted for consideration :

(i) Consideration of the West Coast Canal stretches from Kollam to Kovalam and Kottapuram to Kasergode for declaration as National Waterway.

(ii) To ensure utilisation of full funds provided in the 8th Five Year Plan for development of West Coast Canal.

(iii) Release of Central assistance with regard to ongoing Centrally Sponsored Scheme for modernisation of jetties in Kerala.

*[Translation]*

**Viral Fever**

2952. SHRI O.P. JINDAL : Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item captioned "Mystery fever engulfs Hissar" appearing in the 'Hindustan Times' dated August 2, 1996;

(b) if so. the details thereof:

(c) whether the Central Government propose to send a Central team to the affected areas of Hissar (Haryana) and also provide other health services there; and

(d) the details thereof and the steps proposed to be taken to find out the reasons and check the diseases?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI SALEEM IQBAL SHERVANI) : (a) Yes. Sir.

(b) to (d). Two Central teams from National Institute of Communicable Diseases. Delhi have already visited the affected areas of Hissar (Haryana). based on Epidemiological. Entomological and Clinical observations. it appears to be Dengue outbreak.

The team collected clinical samples which are under laboratory analysis. The results of these samples are awaited. The team advised Insecticidal spray. Surveillance and Health Education in the affected areas for checking further spread of the disease.

*[English]*

**Central University**

2953. SHRI SHIVANAND H. KOUJALGI :
SHRI PUNNU LAL MOHLE :

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Union Government propose to open any Central University in the country particularly in Bilaspur district of Madhya Pradesh and at Belgaum in Karnataka;

(b) if so. the details thereof: and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MUHI RAM SAIKIA): (a) No. Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The National Policy on Education - 1986. with modifications undertaken in 1992, states that. in view of the need to effect an all-round improvement in the institutions. it is proposed that. in the near future. the main emphasis will be on the consolidation of and expansion of facilities in the existing institutions.

**Air Bases Prone to Accidents**

2954. SHRI ANAND RATNA MAURYA : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item appeared in the 'Nav Bharat Times' dated June 29, 1996 under caption 'Viman Durghatnayen Rokne Ke Upayon per Amal Nahin';

(b) if so. the total number of Air bases which have been identified as more peone to air-accidents due to birds flying around them and other factors;

(c) the total number of accidents and the total loss suffered from such accidents due to birds flying near air-bases during last three years; and

(d) the steps Government have taken so far or propose to take in the near future to avoid such accidents?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (c). 10 IAF airfields have been identified as "High Risk Bird areas" by the Inter Ministerial Joint Sub Committee. During the last three financial years. 9 serious aircraft accidents have taken place due to bird strike. However. the cost of damage due to bird hits vary depending upon the type of aircraft lost or repaired/overhauled.

(d) Steps have been taken by the Ministries of Agriculture. Urban Affairs and Employment and the concerned State Governments for modernisation of slaughter houses/carcass utilisation centres and for sanitisation of areas around bird prone airfields to reduce bird activities.

**By-Pass on N.H. No. 37**

2955. SHRI UDDHAB BARMAN : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether the by-pass of National Highway